

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for distributing computer software from a first computer
2 system, comprising:
3 receiving a request for software from a second computer system;
4 generating a message;
5 encrypting the generated message;
6 transmitting the encrypted message to the second computer system;
7 receiving an encrypted response from the second computer system;
8 processing the encrypted response to determine whether the second computer
9 system is authorized to access the software; and
10 permitting the second computer system access to the software after
11 determining that the second computer system is authorized to access the software.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the software comprises software that
2 is a member of a set of software types comprising computer programs, data, text,
3 images, sound, and video.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the software to
2 the second computer system after permitting access.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the message further
2 comprises generating a random component to include within the message.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the random component is comprised of
2 a time stamp.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the time stamp is inserted at an offset
2 into the message.

65T00T" 4T950460

See
a!

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the software comprises a computer
2 program, further comprising automatically causing the installation of the computer
3 software on the second computer system when the computer software is transmitted to
4 the second computer system.

a 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein processing the encrypted response
2 further comprises determining whether a message included in the encrypted response
3 matches the generated message, wherein the second computer is authorized to access
4 the software if the message included in the encrypted response matches the generated
5 message.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein encrypting the message comprises
2 encrypting the message with a private key of the first computer system that is the only
3 key capable of being decrypted by a public key associated with the first computer
4 system, wherein the second computer system maintains the public key that is capable
5 of decrypting messages encrypted with the first computer system's private key,
6 wherein the encrypted response received from the second computer system is
7 encrypted with the second computer system's private key, wherein processing the
8 encrypted response further comprises decrypting the encrypted response with the
9 public key of the second computer system.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated message includes a
2 random component and a request for configuration data from the second computer
3 system, wherein processing the encrypted response comprises determining whether
4 the response includes configuration data for a system that is authorized to access the
5 computer software.

05409637-100199

a!

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the generated message is encrypted
2 with a private key of the first computer system, wherein the first computer system
3 maintains a private key that is the only key capable of being decrypted by a public key
4 associated with the first computer system, and wherein the encrypted response is
5 encrypted with a private key of the second computer system, wherein the first
6 computer system maintains a public key associated with the second computer system
7 that is the only key capable of decrypting the encrypted message.

1 12. A method for accessing computer software from a first computer
2 system with a second computer system, comprising:
3 transmitting a request for the software to the first computer system;
4 receiving an encrypted message from the first computer system;
5 processing the encrypted message to generate a response message;
6 transmitting the response message to the first computer system; and
7 receiving access to the requested software in response to the response
8 message.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the software comprises software that
2 is a member of a set of software types comprising computer programs, data, text,
3 images, sound, and video.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the received encrypted message is
2 encrypted with a private key of the first computer system that is the only key capable
3 of being decrypted by a public key associated with the first computer system, further
4 comprising;
5 decrypting the received encrypted message with the public key associated with
6 the first computer system that is the only key capable of decrypting messages
7 encrypted with the first computer system's private key;

66T00T" 2T960460

8 encrypting the decrypted message with the second computer system's private
9 key; and
10 transmitting the message encrypted with the second computer system's private
11 key to the first computer system.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the received encrypted message
2 includes a random component and a request for configuration data from the second
3 computer system, further comprising adding configuration data for the second
4 computer system to the decrypted message before encrypting the message with the
5 second computer system's private key

1 16. A system for distributing computer software from a first computer
2 system, comprising:
3 means for receiving a request for software from a second computer system;
4 means for generating a message;
5 means for encrypting the generated message;
6 means for transmitting the encrypted message to the second computer system;
7 means for receiving an encrypted response from the second computer system;
8 means for processing the encrypted response to determine whether the second
9 computer system is authorized to access the software; and
10 means for permitting the second computer system access to the software after
11 determining that the second computer system is authorized to access the software.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the software comprises software that
2 is a member of a set of software types comprising computer programs, data, text,
3 images, sound, and video.

09409617-100199

21

1 18. The system of claim 16, further comprising means for transmitting the
2 software to the second computer system after permitting access.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the means for generating the message
2 further comprises generating a random component to include within the message.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the software comprises a computer
2 program, further comprising means for automatically causing the installation of the
3 computer software on the second computer system when the computer software is
4 transmitted to the second computer system.

1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the means for processing the
2 encrypted response further comprises determining whether a message included in the
3 encrypted response matches the generated message, wherein the second computer is
4 authorized to access the software if the message included in the encrypted response
5 matches the generated message.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the means for encrypting the message
2 comprises encrypting the message with a private key of the first computer system that
3 is the only key capable of being decrypted by a public key associated with the first
4 computer system, wherein the second computer system maintains the public key that
5 is capable of decrypting messages encrypted with the first computer system's private
6 key, wherein the encrypted response received from the second computer system is
7 encrypted with the second computer system's private key, wherein the means for
8 processing the encrypted response further comprises decrypting the encrypted
9 response with the public key of the second computer system.

09409617 100199

1 23. The system of claim 16, wherein the generated message includes a
2 random component and a request for configuration data from the second computer
3 system, wherein processing the encrypted response comprises determining whether
4 the response includes configuration data for a system that is authorized to access the
5 computer software.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the generated message is encrypted
2 with a private key of the first computer system, wherein the first computer system
3 maintains a private key that is the only key capable of being decrypted by a public key
4 associated with the first computer system, and wherein the encrypted response is
5 encrypted with a private key of the second computer system, wherein the first
6 computer system maintains a public key associated with the second computer system
7 that is the only key capable of decrypting the encrypted message.

1 25. A system for accessing computer software from a first computer
2 system with a second computer system, comprising:
3 means for transmitting a request for the software to the first computer system;
4 means for receiving an encrypted message from the first computer system;
5 means for processing the encrypted message to generate a response message;
6 means for transmitting the response message to the first computer system; and
7 means for receiving access to the requested software in response to the
8 response message.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the received encrypted message is
2 encrypted with a private key of the first computer system that is the only key capable
3 of being decrypted by a public key associated with the first computer system, further
4 comprising;

09409617 "100199

a

5 means for decrypting the received encrypted message with the public key
6 associated with the first computer system that is the only key capable of decrypting
7 messages encrypted with the first computer system's private key;
8 means for encrypting the decrypted message with the second computer
9 system's private key; and
10 means for transmitting the message encrypted with the second computer
11 system's private key to the first computer system.

1 27. An article of manufacture for use in distributing computer software
2 from a first computer system the article of manufacture comprising computer usable
3 media including at least one computer program embedded therein that causes the first
4 computer system to perform:
5 receiving a request for software from a second computer system;
6 generating a message;
7 encrypting the generated message;
8 transmitting the encrypted message to the second computer system;
9 receiving an encrypted response from the second computer system;
10 processing the encrypted response to determine whether the second computer
11 system is authorized to access the software; and
12 permitting the second computer system access to the software after
13 determining that the second computer system is authorized to access the software.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the software
2 comprises software that is a member of a set of software types comprising computer
3 programs, data, text, images, sound, and video.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, further comprising transmitting
2 the software to the second computer system after permitting access.

a

09409617-100199

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein generating the
2 message further comprises generating a random component to include within the
3 message.

1 31. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the random
2 component is comprised of a time stamp.

1 32. The article of manufacture of claim 30, wherein the time stamp is
2 inserted at an offset into the message.

1 33. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the software
2 comprises a computer program, further comprising automatically causing the
3 installation of the computer software on the second computer system when the
4 computer software is transmitted to the second computer system.

1 34. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein processing the
2 encrypted response further comprises determining whether a message included in the
3 encrypted response matches the generated message, wherein the second computer is
4 authorized to access the software if the message included in the encrypted response
5 matches the generated message.

1 35. The article of manufacture of claim 34, wherein encrypting the
2 message comprises encrypting the message with a private key of the first computer
3 system that is the only key capable of being decrypted by a public key associated with
4 the first computer system, wherein the second computer system maintains the public
5 key that is capable of decrypting messages encrypted with the first computer system's
6 private key, wherein the encrypted response received from the second computer
7 system is encrypted with the second computer system's private key, wherein

00409617 100199

a!

8 processing the encrypted response further comprises decrypting the encrypted
9 response with the public key of the second computer system.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein the generated message
2 includes a random component and a request for configuration data from the second
3 computer system, wherein processing the encrypted response comprises determining
4 whether the response includes configuration data for a system that is authorized to
5 access the computer software.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the generated message
2 is encrypted with a private key of the first computer system, wherein the first
3 computer system maintains a private key that is the only key capable of being
4 decrypted by a public key associated with the first computer system, and wherein the
5 encrypted response is encrypted with a private key of the second computer system,
6 wherein the first computer system maintains a public key associated with the second
7 computer system that is the only key capable of decrypting the encrypted message.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 27, the article of manufacture
2 comprising at least one additional software program to cause the second computer
3 system to perform:

4 transmitting a request for the software to the first computer system;
5 receiving an encrypted message from the first computer system;
6 processing the encrypted message to generate a response message;
7 transmitting the response message to the first computer system; and
8 receiving access to the requested software in response to the response
9 message.

09409617-100199

al

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the received encrypted
2 message is encrypted with a private key of the first computer system that is the only
3 key capable of being decrypted by a public key associated with the first computer
4 system, further comprising;
5 decrypting the received encrypted message with the public key associated with
6 the first computer system that is the only key capable of decrypting messages
7 encrypted with the first computer system's private key;
8 encrypting the decrypted message with the second computer system's private
9 key; and
10 transmitting the message encrypted with the second computer system's private
11 key to the first computer system.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the received encrypted
2 message includes a random component and a request for configuration data from the
3 second computer system, further comprising adding configuration data for the second
4 computer system to the decrypted message before encrypting the message with the
5 second computer system's private key

65T00T 27960450

al